

SEVEN FAT ROVERS

REMARKABLE PARTY OF INDIAN TERRITORY INDIANS.

HAD FUN WITH EVERYBODY

AMUSED CROWDS AT UNION DEPOT WITH THEIR PRANKS.

They Vied With Each Other as to Which Could Tell the Biggest Yarn, and Each of the Seven Was Entitled to the Belt.

They were seven jolly rovers, fat, and looking for fun. From the moment they entered the Union depot the owners of curious eyes furnished amusement for them.



THIS ROVER TURNED INTERVIEWER.

Persons who sought to join in and to learn the occasion for the merriment became the butt of their jokes. It was strange; these staid wards of the nation, not a generation out of barbarism, wearing the motley and enjoying the part.

They looked like Indians except that they were fat. Their broad faces beamed good naturedly and their eyes, quick and black, sparkled as they conjured witty replies and played pranks upon the inquisitive intruders. Every tradition of the Indian's character was shattered by these corpulent, playful, overfed pets of an indulgent nation. One of their principal sources of enjoyment was in telling stories about where they were going. In this everybody was "game" for them and the stories varied as many times as there were questioners.

One went the round of the party, touching each member on the head, as he said solemnly: "This one Creek, this Seminole, he Chickasaw, big Indian is a Choctaw."

Then all laughed. "How much he weigh?" pointing to one who might have been Van Tetter masquerading. "He weigh—um—exactly 534 pounds." This provoked laughter from some of them at the big, sedate Indian's expense. Others who appeared absorbed in the wonderful architecture about them were not able to conceal their amusement. The joker was induced to bring down his estimate gradually to 253 pounds, but not another pound would he take off. He insisted there was one Indian in his tribe who weighed over 200 pounds. His last estimate on the weight of the big fellow was probably not far from correct.

Tribe Almost Extinct. They are Tonkawan Indians living near Ponca, I. T., the remnants of a tribe that came from the Rio Grande in Texas. Only twenty-five or eighty remain. In 1882 over half their number was massacred a few miles from Anadarko, I. T., by hostile Kiowas.

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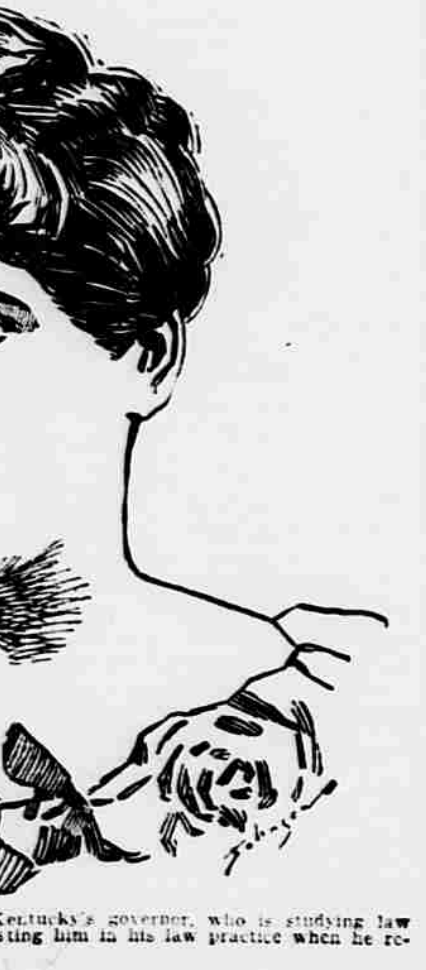
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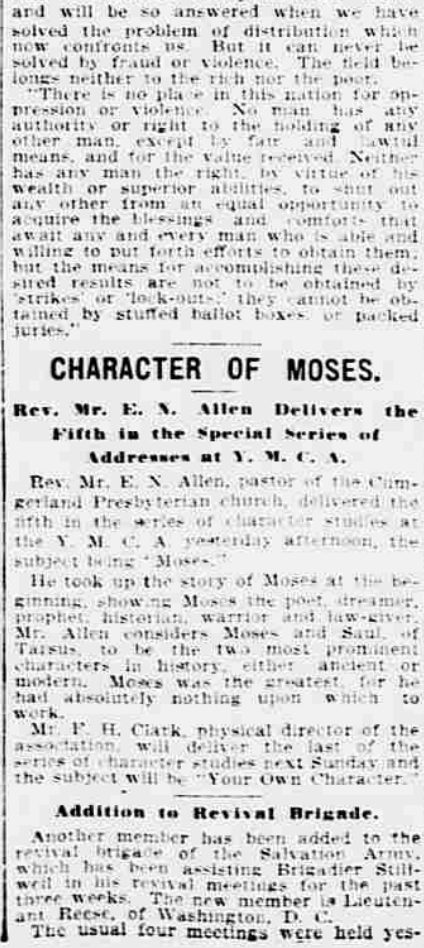
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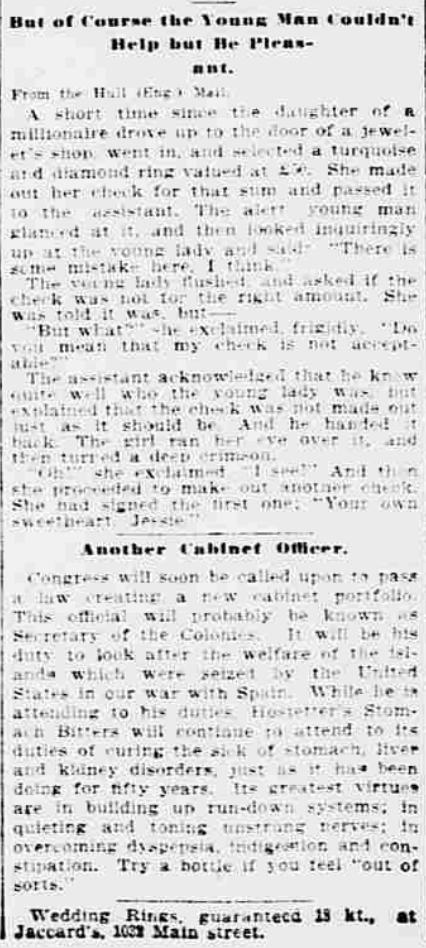
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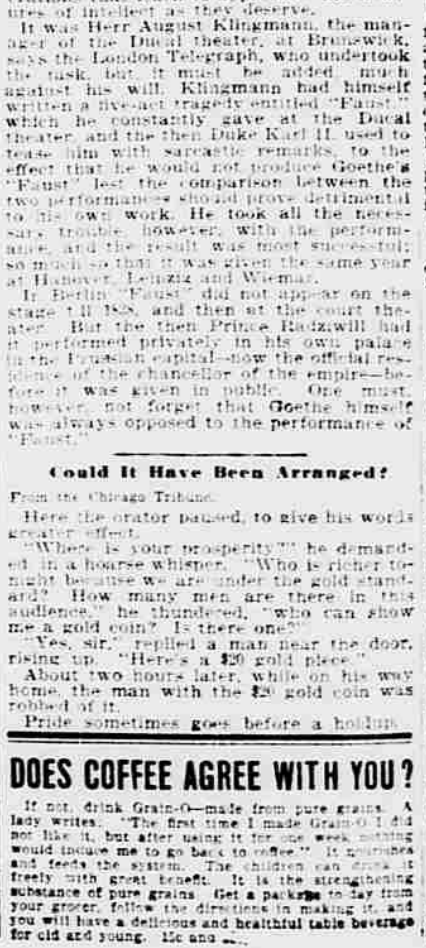
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